



**SANTA CLAUS** and all his reindeer—Dasher, Dancer, Comet, Vixen, Rudolph and his girl friend Violet will be at Vel's Ford from now until Christmas Eve. Santa is on hand for a personal visit with every child. Free candy canes for each youngster. Come see Santa and all his reindeer at Vel's Ford, 20900 Hawthorne Blvd., Torrance. —PRESS photo

### Advance Officer Candidates

The Navy will advance certain male Officer candidates in pay grades, Jerry Delk, Shipfitter First Class, Navy Recruiter announced today.

Officer Candidates (men) and Naval Aviation Officer Candidates recruited from civilian status with no previous military service will be enlisted as Petty Officer Second Class while undergoing indoctrination training.

Petty Officer Delk said this will lessen the hardship placed on married candidates who must support dependents during this period.

For further information, call or visit the Navy Recruiting Station located at 1520 Cravens Ave., Torrance, California. Phone FA 0-3141.

### KEEP EYES ON ROAD

When you're driving about this holiday season, the Automobile Club of Southern California suggests you keep your eyes on the road. Don't window shop when you're behind the wheel.

### Urge Precautions Against Holiday Home Hazards

The Christmas trees and Yuletide decorations in the home can become stark symbols of tragedy rather than joy, the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the National Safety Council said in urging precautions against holiday household hazards.

"Hazards in the home are multiplied during the busy Christmas season," Chapter President J. T. Blalock in releasing a list of safeguards for a Merry Christmas.

Non-combustible materials such as metals, glass and asbestos should be used for home decorations whenever possible, and if combustible materials are to be used, they should be flame-proofed, particularly if they are to be placed anywhere near the Christmas tree or the fireplace.

Santa Claus should also wear flame-proofed whiskers. Records of the National Safety Council show tragic incidents in which death and serious injuries resulted from flammable cotton whiskers catching fire.



**THE SPIRIT** of Christmas will reach those who might not otherwise enjoy this time of year through the efforts of the Medical Carriers Club of Torrance High School. Under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Levanos, school nurse, the students have initiated a toy drive for the children of Orthopedic Hospital. Shown above preparing gifts for delivery are, Sandy Wilson (left), club secretary; Gretchen Staff, member, and Steve Mahoney, vice-president. —PRESS photo

### OFF-BEAT COLOR FOR WINTER

There is no reason your garden should be merely green or drab during winter, not in California.

Now is the time to think of those plants that reward us not only with blooms at other seasons but colorful foliage during the winter—real show-stoppers if used properly.

One of our most useful small trees is the Strawberry Tree, which has tiny, heather-bell type white flowers in the fall and even through the winter with a round, strawberry-like fruit following the bloom. The berries are quite colorful and you need not worry about the children munching the fruits. They're edible.

**Looks Handsome**  
This delightful little tree grows to about 20 feet eventually, does not mind some wind and always looks handsome. The bark of the dark brown branches and trunk break to reveal an inner red. The leaves are dark green on top and reddish beneath, hence always colorful. It is not particular about the soil and even will tolerate being planted in a lawn. Pests don't seem to bother it and its roots won't annoy your patio or invade your sewer. A really wonderful little tree for a multitude of uses, and particularly colorful in winter. The berries and foliage are excellent for flower arrangements—just pound the stems and plunge into cold water.

An unusual shrub with the virtue of blooming from November to April is the Australian Fuchsia, which isn't a fuchsia in truth but has long, narrow pink flowers like bell shaped earrings and flaring at the bottom to resemble fuchsias. The foliage is gray-green, which tips us off that to grow this well you need excellent drainage—otherwise this shrub is uncommonly easy to please. Leave it alone.

Prune in the spring after bloom to get a good bushy form—and that's about all the care needed.

**Crimson Flame**  
You can obtain another sort of color from a tree that is too frequently overlooked, the Chinese Pistachio, which becomes virtually a crimson flame in September and continues its spectacular show until January, when it drops its leaves. Any of the members of the California Association of Nurserymen will have this tree.

By selective pruning, you can open up this normally compact, round-headed tree to appreciate its limbs. Prune in January or February because it will start leafing out again by March. The foliage is a deep, shiny green, lighter green underneath and quite dense. To bring out the most brilliant color, withhold water around August. You'll find this has the wonderfully accommodating habit of growing rapidly while young then slowing down as it grows older. It will reach a height of 30 to 35 feet.

**Show Off**  
We don't normally think of junipers as colorful characters and certainly nothing to write home about in the winter—just wonderfully shaped, handsome green plants. This is because you've never seen the Andorra Juniper turn to a rich, rasy plum color in October and keep that color until March. Through the summer and spring it's a handsome grey-green shrub spreading over the ground, holding the soil on a hill or covering less difficult ground, but in winter it's a showoff.

Another of the Junipers that does a brilliant switch is Bar Harbor. This develops a silvery plum color, which continues until spring. Both these Junipers are extremely useful as low shrubs—and groundcovers.

### Club Will Hold Christmas Party

The Knolls Travelers Club of 23701 Western Ave., Torrance, is preparing for its first Christmas party, which will be held in the recreation hall of Knolls lodge, Sunday, Dec. 22. The hall has been beautifully decorated by the program committee.

## • NOTICE •

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